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HOW OUR 4-H CLUBS HAVE HELPED OUR COMMUNITY

National 4-H Program
December 3, 1938, Chicago, Illinois
Oliver Larson, Minnesota
Winner - National Leadership Trophy

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I have been given a pretty big topic for a young fellow to talk about. But I'll try to tell you four or five ways in which our own 4-H Club has tried to help our community.

First of all, there are the regular meetings held by our Club. To us as 4-H Club members, these meetings are very important. Here, under the guidance of our local Club Leader, we have some of the best good times that a group of farm young people could possibly have. Our 4-H Club has helped our community by providing these wholesome good times for us right in our own neighborhood. We receive information on how to carry on our 4-H Club projects, we prepare and give talks on interesting subjects, we study good music and we learn how to work and play together as a group. I believe that our community recognizes that our 4-H Club has helped in this way.

But we have not been thinking of ourselves alone. As a Club, we wanted to take part in some community event. So this fall, three or four of the 4-H Clubs in Todd County organized a Junior Livestock Show, something like our State Show, only smaller, of course. The businessmen of Bertha helped us and the show went off in good shape. Everyone seemed to think that the 4-H Club did a good job and I hope that we may have a similar show each year. At least our 4-H Club members tried to help our community by putting on that livestock show.

And then our 4-H Clubs have had a part in our Todd County Fair. With the help of our county extension agent, we have made our exhibits there. We have helped to provide a good program of team demonstrations, judging contests, etc.

At one time our 4-H Club put on a regular program for a community Club located in a neighboring township.

Through the beginning which they made as former 4-H Club members, there are several farmers in our County who now have fine herds of livestock. One such farmer owns a herd of pure-bred Jersey cattle and a flock of about 80 head of registered Shropshire sheep. Another has a herd of pure-bred Chester White hogs. His breeding stock is in demand throughout the county. 4-H Clubs have helped our community by giving these men and others like them, a start in the kind of work they wanted to follow - and our community now has better livestock on its farms because of their efforts.

Most parents want their boys and girls to have a wide circle of friends and also to meet worth-while people outside of their own community. Being 4-H Club members has made it possible for many young people in our County to attend the State 4-H Club week at University Farm near St. Paul;

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to come to Chicago for the National Club Congress; or to take part in district 4-H events nearer home. We have learned to know Mr. Erickson, our State Club Leader, and some of the other extension people in Minnesota. We have met 4-H Club leaders and members from other States; and we have seen other parts of our own great State. As 4-H Club members, we ought to be able to help our community because we have had a chance to see something of the world about us and to learn how other 4-H Clubs help their communities.

I don't want to talk very much about myself today;- but I've received many benefits from my nine (9) years as a 4-H Club member. Ever since I lost my father, I've helped my mother operate our farm. You can guess that my 4-H experience has been of great help to me in handling our herd of Jersey cattle and our poultry flock and our farm crops. My sister has made good use of her 4-H work in helping care for our home.

4-H Club work has helped me to develop a love for good books and one of my favorite poems is entitled "Club Work". It was written by Dr. C. B. Smith of the United States Department of Agriculture. One verse reads:-

"To help lift the burden
Point the better way
Give vision to toil
And hope for a better day."

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